

**226.7 Order of receiving patients.**

1. *a.* Preference in the reception of patients into said hospitals shall be exercised in the following order:

(1) Cases of less duration than one year.

(2) Chronic cases, where the disease is of more than one-year duration, presenting the most favorable prospect for recovery.

(3) Those for whom application has been longest on file, other things being equal.

*b.* Where cases are equally meritorious in all other respects, the indigent shall have the preference.

2. If the district court commits a patient to a state mental health institute and a bed for the patient is not available, the institute shall assist the court in locating an alternative placement for the patient.

[R60, §1438; C73, §1422; C97, §2286; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §3489; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §226.7]

92 Acts, ch 1241, §69; 2009 Acts, ch 41, §263